

C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA, CHAIRMAN

RALPH REGULA, OHIO
JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JIM KOLBE, ARIZONA
JAMES T. WALSH, NEW YORK
CHARLES H. TAYLOR, NORTH CAROLINA
DAVID L. HOBSON, OHIO
ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR., OKLAHOMA
HENRY BONILLA, TEXAS
JOE KNOLLENBERG, MICHIGAN
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
ROGER F. WICKER, MISSISSIPPI
GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR., WASHINGTON
RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM, CALIFORNIA
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
TOM LATHAM, IOWA
ANNE M. NORTHUP, KENTUCKY
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
JOHN E. PETERSON, PENNSYLVANIA
VIRGIL H. GOODE, JR., VIRGINIA
JOHN T. DOOLITTLE, CALIFORNIA
RAY LAHOOD, ILLINOIS
JOHN E. SWEENEY, NEW YORK
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA
DON SHERWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA
DAVE WELDON, FLORIDA
MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
MARK STEVEN KIRK, ILLINOIS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20515-6015

June 3, 2003

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN
JOHN P. MURTHA, PENNSYLVANIA
NORMAN D. DICKS, WASHINGTON
MARTIN OLAV SABO, MINNESOTA
STENY H. HOYER, MARYLAND
ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, WEST VIRGINIA
MARCY KAPTUR, OHIO
PETER J. VISCLOSKEY, INDIANA
NITA M. LOWEY, NEW YORK
JOSE E. SERRANO, NEW YORK
ROSA L. DELAURO, CONNECTICUT
JAMES P. MORAN, VIRGINIA
JOHN W. OLVER, MASSACHUSETTS
ED PASTOR, ARIZONA
DAVID E. PRICE, NORTH CAROLINA
CHET EDWARDS, TEXAS
ROBERT E. "BUD" CRAMER, JR., ALABAMA
PATRICK J. KENNEDY, RHODE ISLAND
JAMES E. CLYBURN, SOUTH CAROLINA
MAURICE D. HINCHEY, NEW YORK
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, CALIFORNIA
SAM FARR, CALIFORNIA
JESSE L. JACKSON, JR., ILLINOIS
CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK, MICHIGAN
ALLEN BOYD, FLORIDA
CHAKA FATTAH, PENNSYLVANIA
STEVEN R. ROTHMAN, NEW JERSEY
SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., GEORGIA
MARION BERRY, ARKANSAS

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
JAMES W. DYER

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

Mr. Hugo Gurdon
Executive Editor
The Hill
733 15th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

To the Editor:

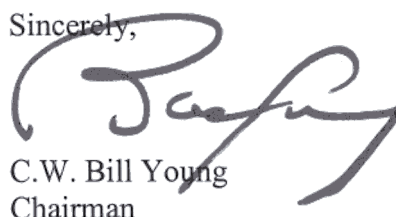
I was surprised to read a story titled "Congress Veils Appropriations Spending Totals" in the May 28th issue of your publication. This bizarre account detailed a purported "agreement" between the House and Senate appropriators to avoid setting totals for individual spending bills. As the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, I can safely say that this story is false. Section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 gives the House and Senate Appropriations Committees the authority to set funding allocations for the 13 appropriations bills.

According to your account, these totals would remain fluid and never be formally approved by the full Appropriations Committees. I have no intention of doing this because it would be inconsistent with long established budgetary procedures and would have the practical effect of having a subcommittee produce a spending bill without knowing how much money they have to spend.

It is my intention to allocate the resources provided by the Budget Resolution to the 13 individual appropriations bills and to have these allocations ratified by the membership of the Committee in a public session. Last year, my Committee announced its allocations on June 21st and they were ratified by the full committee shortly thereafter. This year, I envision a similar, if not more aggressive, timetable.

In the future, before reporting agreements between the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, I would request that you get your facts straight.

Sincerely,



C.W. Bill Young
Chairman